

**Minutes of the
West Baton Rouge Library Board of Control
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2025, 4:04 – 4:55 PM
830 N. Alexander Ave., Port Allen, LA 70767**

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Kelson Swancy

Roll Call by Ms. Martin - Present: Ms. Joanne Bourgeois, President; Ms. Laurie Moreau, Vice President; Ms. Brenda Morgan, Treasurer; Ms. Andrea Kent, Ms. Kelson Swancy, and Mr. Carey Denstel, Ex Officio. **Absent:** Mr. Henry Henderson, and Mr. Trenton Gordon. Also **present** were Tamie Martin, Executive Director; Dannie Garrett; and Luis Interiano.

Motion to Amend Agenda

Ms. Bourgeois requested an amendment to the agenda to consider replacing the front door. Ms. Andrea Kent **moved** to amend the agenda to include the discussion after the 2026 budget presentation, and the motion was **seconded** by Ms. Kelson Swancy. The motion was **approved unanimously**.

Public Comment

None

Minutes of September 16, 2025, Meeting

After reviewing the minutes, Ms. Bourgeois asked for any comments or corrections. Ms. Laurie Moreau made a **motion to accept** the minutes presented, **seconded** by Ms. Kelson Swancy. Ms. Bourgeois called for a voice vote. The minutes were **approved unanimously**.

Consideration of Library Budget 2026

Ms. Martin presented the Board with a proposed budget for 2026. Ms. Martin explained the sources of unexpectedly greater revenue at this point in 2025 and discussed whether the current budget needed to be amended to reflect this; she said she has requested guidance from the auditor for a definitive answer. Ms. Martin estimated that revenue sources will bring in \$3,270,800 in 2026, while the estimated expenditures will total \$3,122,636. Ms. Bourgeois noted that the proposed budget includes funds to add an hourly position to assist the youth librarians and one to assist at the circulation desk. Ms. Martin pointed out that the estimated revenue reflects the rolling forward of the millage back to 4.1 mills. Ms. Andrea Kent made a **motion to accept** the budget proposal as presented, **seconded** by Ms. Laurie Moreau. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Consideration of Replacement of Front Door

Ms. Martin explained that after multiple attempts to repair the front door, it is still malfunctioning. The repair person stated that it needs to be replaced. Ms. Martin presented an estimate of \$12,500 to replace the door. Ms. Kelson Swancy **made a motion** to authorize Ms. Martin to expend emergency repair funds to replace the door at her discretion, **seconded** by Ms. Brenda Morgan. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Reports

Ms. Martin gave reports on statistics, finances, and daily operations. Ms. Martin explained that the Library has joined the State Library's program to offer free museum passes to patrons through their WBRPL membership and noted that it operates at no cost to the Library. She also noted our partnership with Hope Resuscitated to offer free Narcan through distribution boxes placed outside of both branches. Ms. Martin then explained that following the State Library's decision to discontinue statewide access to EBSCO databases, it was determined that it is not cost effective for the Library to pay for that access directly. She noted that the meeting room at the South Branch gets extensive use by local industry, public groups, and the school system. She detailed community outreach activities by youth, adult, and reference staff, as well as her own presentations to multiple groups to increase awareness about the upcoming tax renewal on the November 15, 2025, ballot. Ms. Martin stated that the Library's credit card was compromised and has been cancelled and that she is expecting the replacement card soon. She concluded her reports review by mentioning the numerous print, digital, and in-person avenues through which the Library is raising public awareness of the tax renewal on the November 15 ballot.

Adjourn

There being no further business, **motion to adjourn** by Ms. Laurie Moreau, **seconded** by Ms. Kelson Swancy. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Conclusion – Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Library Board of Control meeting will be **November 18, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.** Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

/s/ _____

Ms. Joanne Bourgeois, President, Library Board of Control

/s/ _____

Submitted by Tamie Martin, Director